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JULY RED MEAT PRODUCTION

West Virginia - Commercial red meat production during July 2008 totaled 400,000 pounds. This was down 6 percent from July 2007 and up 50 percent from June 2008 production. Commercial red meat production is the carcass weight after slaughter including beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Individual commodity production is total live weight of commercial slaughter.

Commercial cattle slaughter totaled 488,000 pounds live weight, down 17 percent from July 2007. Cattle slaughter totaled 400 head, down 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight, at 1,238 pounds, was up 50 pounds from a year ago.

Commercial calf slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 195,000 pounds live weight, down 6 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 700 head, down 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight, at 262 pounds, was up 8 pounds from the previous year.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter totaled 55,000 pounds live weight, up from 8,000 pounds last year. Sheep and lamb slaughter totaled 400 head, up 300 head from the previous year. The average live weight, at 134 pounds, was down 9 pounds from the previous year.

United States - Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.25 billion pounds in July, up

8 percent from the 3.94 billion pounds produced in July 2007.

Beef production, at 2.37 billion pounds, was 5 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.06 million head, up 6 percent from July 2007. The average live weight was up 4 pounds from the previous year, at 1,273 pounds.

Veal production totaled 12.3 million pounds, 16 percent above July a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 87,900 head, up 41 percent from July 2007. The average live weight was down 46 pounds from last year, at 243 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.85 billion pounds, up 12 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.47 million head, up 13 percent from July 2007. The average live weight was down 2 pounds from the previous year, at 262 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 13.7 million pounds, was up 1 percent from July 2007. Sheep slaughter totaled 207,800 head, 1 percent above last year. The average live weight was 132 pounds, up 1 pound from July a year ago.

January to July 2008 commercial red meat production was 29.3 billion pounds, up 6 percent from 2007. Accumulated beef production was up 3 percent from last year, veal was down 6 percent, pork was up 11 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 4 percent.

July 2007 contained 22 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays. July 2008 contained 23 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

TURKEYS RAISED

United States - The preliminary estimate of turkeys raised in the United States during 2008 is 271 million, down slightly from the number raised during 2007.

The following six States are expected to account for about two-thirds of the turkeys produced in the United States during 2008: **Minnesota**, at 49.0 million turkeys, is up 2 percent from last year; **North Carolina**, at 39.0

million turkeys, is unchanged from last year; **Arkansas**, at 31.0 million turkeys, is unchanged from a year ago; **Virginia**, at 21.0 million turkeys, is unchanged from 2007; **Missouri**, at 20.0 million turkeys, is unchanged from last year; and **Indiana**, at 15.9 million turkeys, is up 5 percent from last year.

CROP PRODUCTION

United States – Corn production is forecast at 12.1 billion bushels, down 2 percent from last month and 8 percent below 2007. Based on conditions as of September 1, yields are expected to average 152.3 bushels per acre, down 2.7 bushels from August but 1.2 bushels above last year. If realized, yield will be the second highest on record, behind 2004, while production will be the second largest, behind last year. Yield forecasts are lower than last month across the northern and eastern Corn Belt and the Ohio and Tennessee Valleys where the lack of rainfall during August reduced soil moisture supplies and stressed the crop. Yield prospects also decreased across much of the middle Mississippi Valley and adjacent areas of the Great Plains as dry weather during August eliminated soil moisture surpluses.

Corn for grain area harvested and to be harvested for grain is forecast at 79.3 million acres, unchanged from August but down 8 percent from 2007. If realized, this will be the second largest area harvested for grain since 1944, behind last year's 86.5 million acres.

The September 1 **corn objective yield data** indicate the highest average number of ears per acre on record for the combined 10 objective yield States (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin). Record high ear counts are forecast in all objective yield States except Kansas, Nebraska, and Wisconsin.

As of August 31, sixty-one percent of the **corn acreage** was rated in good to excellent condition, down 5 percentage points from last month but 2 points higher than a year ago. Regionally, condition ratings declined more than 5 points from last month across the northern and eastern Corn Belt, Ohio and Tennessee Valleys, and northern half of the Atlantic Coastal States where dry conditions throughout much of August depleted soil moisture supplies. Despite the decreases, crop conditions in these areas remained better than or equal to last year. Corn conditions decreased to a lesser extent across the middle Mississippi Valley as mostly dry conditions during August eliminated soil moisture surpluses. Crop conditions improved in Texas while decreasing slightly across the remainder of the southern half of the Great Plains where heavy rains around mid-August provided some relief to the drought stressed crop. However, condition ratings in these areas remained below last year's levels.

Mostly dry, mild conditions across the Corn Belt during August provided favorable conditions for corn growth. However, the crop continued to develop behind average due to the slow early season planting pace. By August 31, forty-five percent of the crop had reached the dent stage or beyond, 30 points behind last year and 20 points behind the 5-year average. Development was more than 30 points behind normal in the upper and middle Mississippi Valley and northernmost areas of the Great Plains. The crop was just beginning to enter the final stage of development with 6 percent of the acreage rated mature or beyond on August 31, fifteen points behind last year and 10 points behind normal. Missouri was furthest behind with 9 percent of their corn acreage rated mature or beyond compared with 49 percent last year and 53 percent for the 5-year average.

Soybean production is forecast at 2.93 billion bushels, down 1 percent from the August forecast but up 13 percent from last year. If realized, this will be the fourth largest production on record. Based on September 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 40.0 bushels per acre, down 0.5 bushel from last month and down 1.2 bushels from 2007. Compared with last month, yields are forecast lower or unchanged in the mid-Atlantic States, the central and eastern Corn Belt, Louisiana, Nebraska, and South Dakota. Yields increased or are unchanged from the August 1 forecast across the Southeast and the remainder of the Great Plains.

Area for harvest is forecast at 73.3 million acres, unchanged from last month but up 17 percent from 2007. Harvested area, if realized, will be the third largest on record.

The September objective yield data for the combined seven major soybean producing States (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska and Ohio) indicate a lower pod count compared with last year, as late planting this spring led to slower than normal development. Compared with final counts for 2007, pod counts are down in Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, and Nebraska. The largest decrease is in Nebraska, down 312 pods per 18 square feet from 2007's record high pod count as dry conditions across the eastern part of the State have reduced yield expectations for much of the non-irrigated soybeans.

After beginning the month 21 points behind the normal pace for setting pods, the crop developed rapidly during August and progress had nearly returned to normal by the end of the month. As of August 31, ninety-four percent of the U.S. crop was at or beyond the pod-setting stage, behind last year and the 5-year average by 4 and 3 points, respectively. The only State where pod-setting was not within 4 points of the normal pace was Missouri, where only 69 percent of the soybeans were at or beyond the pod-setting stage, 25 points behind normal.

As of August 31, fifty-seven percent of the U.S. **soybean crop** was rated in good to excellent condition, 1 percentage point above the same week in 2007 but down 4 percentage points from the previous week. Crop conditions declined or remained unchanged during August across the Corn Belt and Great Plains, with the exception of Kansas. Decreases of more than 10 points in percent rated good to excellent occurred in Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, Michigan, Tennessee, and Wisconsin as abnormally dry conditions prevailed in those areas. Meanwhile, the only States that showed an increase in condition ratings during the month were Arkansas, Kansas, Mississippi, and North Carolina. If realized, the yield forecast in New York will match the record high set in 2006.

Hurricane Gustav

Hurricane Gustav made landfall on September 1, then moved northward through Louisiana and into Arkansas over the course of several days. Because the information in this report is based on conditions as of September 1, the full impact of this weather event is not reflected in this report.

MUSHROOMS

United States - Sales of the 2007-08 U.S. mushroom crop are 809 million pounds, down 2 percent from the 2006-07 season and 4 percent below two years ago. Value of sales for the 2007-08 U.S. mushroom crop is \$964 million, virtually unchanged from the previous season but 8 percent above the 2005-06 season. The number of growers, at 286, is up 6 from last season. The average price is \$1.19 per pound, up 3 cents from 2006-07.

Volume of sales reported by growers of **Agaricus mushrooms** for fresh market is 675 million pounds, down 3 percent from last season. Volume of sales of Agaricus mushrooms for processing is 118 million pounds, virtually unchanged from last season. Value of sales for all Agaricus mushrooms totaled \$914 million, down slightly from the previous season but 8 percent above 2005-06.

Value of sales for commercially grown **specialty mushrooms** in 2007-08 is \$50 million, up 9 percent from the 2006-07 season. A specialty grower is defined as having at least 200 natural wood logs in production or some commercial indoor growing area, and \$200 dollars or more in sales. The average price per pound received by growers, at \$3.08, is down 16 cents from the previous season.

Volume of sales of **Shiitake mushrooms** totaled 9.90 million pounds for the 2007-08 season, up 42 percent from the previous season. Price per pound

received by growers, at \$2.81 per pound, is down 55 cents from 2006-07. Sales volume of Oyster mushrooms, at 4.30 million pounds, is down 16 percent from the previous season. Price per pound received by growers, at \$2.87 per pound, is up 46 cents from the previous season. Volume of Sales of exotic mushrooms, other than Shiitake or Oyster, is 2.01 million pounds, down 3 percent from last season. Price per pound received by growers, at \$4.86 per pound, is up 2 cents from 2006-07.

Certified Organic Agaricus and Specialty Mushrooms - Growers sold 39.8 million pounds of mushrooms that were certified organic during the 2007-08 growing season, 9 percent above 2006-07. Out of the 39.8 million pounds, 13.3 million pounds, or 33 percent of the total were sold as certified organic mushrooms, while the rest were sold without the certified organic label. This compares with 8.78 million pounds, or 24 percent sold as certified organic during the 2006-07 crop year. Agaricus mushrooms accounted for 84 percent of the mushrooms sold as certified organic, while all specialty mushrooms made up the remainder. These certified organic sales represent 2 percent of the 2007-08 total mushroom sales. The number of certified organic mushroom growers totaled 42, up 1 from the previous season. These growers represent 15 percent of the 286 total mushroom producers.

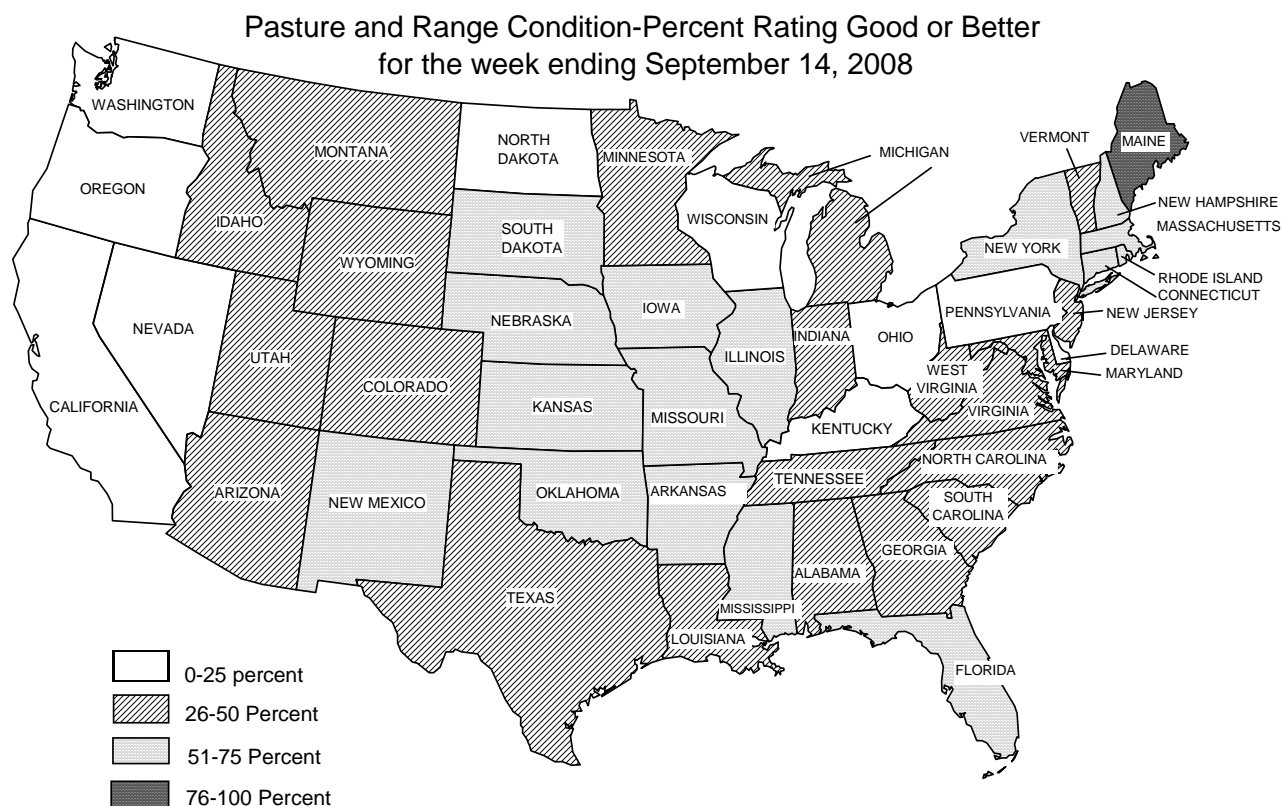
COLD STORAGE

United States - **Frozen food stocks** in refrigerated warehouses on July 31, 2008 were greater than year earlier levels for turkey, chicken, pork, and cheese.

Butter stocks were down 4 percent from last month and down 9 percent from a year ago.

Total red meat supplies in freezers were down 2 percent from the previous month and down slightly from last year. Frozen pork supplies were down 5 percent from the previous month but up 8 percent from last year. Stocks of pork bellies were down 20 percent from last month but up 87 percent from last year.

Total frozen poultry supplies on July 31, 2008 were up 3 percent from the previous month and up 16 percent from a year ago. Total stocks of chicken were down 3 percent from the previous month but up 12 percent from last year. Total pounds of turkey in freezers were up 10 percent from last month and up 23 percent from July 31, 2007.



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GUS R. DOUGLASS, COMMISSIONER
DALE R. KING, DIRECTOR

United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
West Virginia Department of Agriculture
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Charleston, West Virginia 25305